

JORDAN TIMES

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جوردين تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانكليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية « الراي »

EAU endorses Rhodesia guerrillas

ROME, Feb. 28 (R). — The Organisation of African Unity (OAU) Ministerial Council today voted to support continued guerrilla war against Rhodesia's white minority government. In one of several resolutions passed at a meeting here, the council regretted the breakdown of the Geneva talks on Rhodesia and supported the continued armed struggle. On the Middle East, the council renewed its call to Israel to withdraw from all occupied Arab territories and to recognise the Palestinians' rights to sovereignty. The OAU ministers repeated their condemnation of a mercenary invasion of Benin last month, in which Morocco and Gabon have been implicated.

Angolan rebels kill 43 in raid

LUANDA, Angola, Feb. 28 (R). — Anti-government guerrillas supported by mercenaries and Zaireans have killed 43 people and wounded 25 others in a raid on a northern Angolan village, the Defence Ministry announced here today. A statement, underscoring continuing tension between Angola and its northern neighbour, said "appropriate measures" would be taken by government forces to prevent further attacks, but it did not elaborate. A force of 200 rebel Angolans and Zaireans, accompanied by three European mercenaries, attacked the village of Pangala, 20 kms inside Angola's northern border on Saturday at 6 a.m., the statement said. Those killed were defenceless men, women and children, the statement added.

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In Newsweek interview

King Hussein: Washington Post allegations meant to undermine peace

AMMAN (JNA). — His Majesty King Hussein has dismissed allegations by the Washington Post of the existence of links between the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and Jordan as a "pure fabrication" and a "scandalous attempt to undermine the Middle East peace efforts."

The King said in an interview, which is to appear in the next edition of Newsweek magazine, that the people behind the allegations (subsequently carried by other U.S. newspapers) were out to blacken the reputation of those who are in a position to make a contribution to the quest for peace in the region.

It is clear, the King said, that the timing of the publication of the article, which coincided with the arrival of U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance in Amman, was no accident. The people behind the allegations are out to undermine Middle East peace efforts so as to perpetuate the Israeli occupation of Arab territories, he said.

The individuals in question, King Hussein added, have no scruples against resorting to character assassination to achieve their ends, even against people working for peace. Nevertheless, the King said, this would not deter him from his objective, and he would continue to work for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Any financial support Jordan received was to bolster our potential and the strength of our country, he said. We have received foreign aid from different sources over the years, some of which went to strengthen our security forces. We have always tried to acquire technical expertise and equipment to improve and strengthen our capacity to face an ongoing world conflict. If there was a meeting of interests between us and the United States that only means we are and shall remain convinced of constructive cooperation when ever and wherever possible.

"To say that money was paid for personal reasons is a pure fabrication my people know me as I know them ... and these campaigns against us are to no avail ... we are strong enough to withstand them," he said.

Hussein visits Khaled

LONDON, Feb. 28 (JNA). — His Majesty King Hussein today called for the second time on King Khaled of Saudi Arabia, who is currently recuperating from surgery at Wellington Hospital.

In report to Security Council Waldheim: Mideast issues remain intractable

UNITED NATIONS, Feb. 28 (R). — United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, in a sombre report on his recent Middle East mission, said today all sides in the conflict would have to change their attitude before the Geneva peace conference could be reconvened.

The General Assembly has called for its resumption by March 31.

In his report, addressed to the Security Council, Dr. Waldheim said the main issues in the conflict remained intractable, but there was an increasing awareness that an opportunity now existed to resume negotiations.

If this opportunity was not seized, Dr. Waldheim said, there were grave dangers that the situation would deteriorate once again.

De Guiringaud: Arab leaders are "indisputably realistic" over peace

PARIS, Feb. 28 (R). — French Foreign Minister Louis de Guiringaud said today the Arab leaders he met during his recent Middle East tour really wanted peace, but he doubted if it could be achieved this year.

"I don't think peace will be achieved in 1977, although conditions for progress towards peace have never been so good for many years," he said at a press luncheon.

M. de Guiringaud however expressed "moderate optimism" about the chances for an eventual Middle East settlement, following recent visits to Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Egypt, among whose leaders he found "indisputable realism."

of surmounting this obstacle by various arrangements, I do not believe that it can be surmounted by purely procedural means without certain changes in attitude on all sides," Dr. Waldheim said.

"Such changes would involve mutual recognition of the legitimacy of the claims of the different parties in suitable forms and with adequate guarantees and an effort on all sides to define more clearly the shape of an ultimate peace settlement in the Middle East."

He said the attitude of the PLO and Israel towards each other, plus the status of the Palestinians in a future settlement, were areas where changes were needed in order to allow progress.

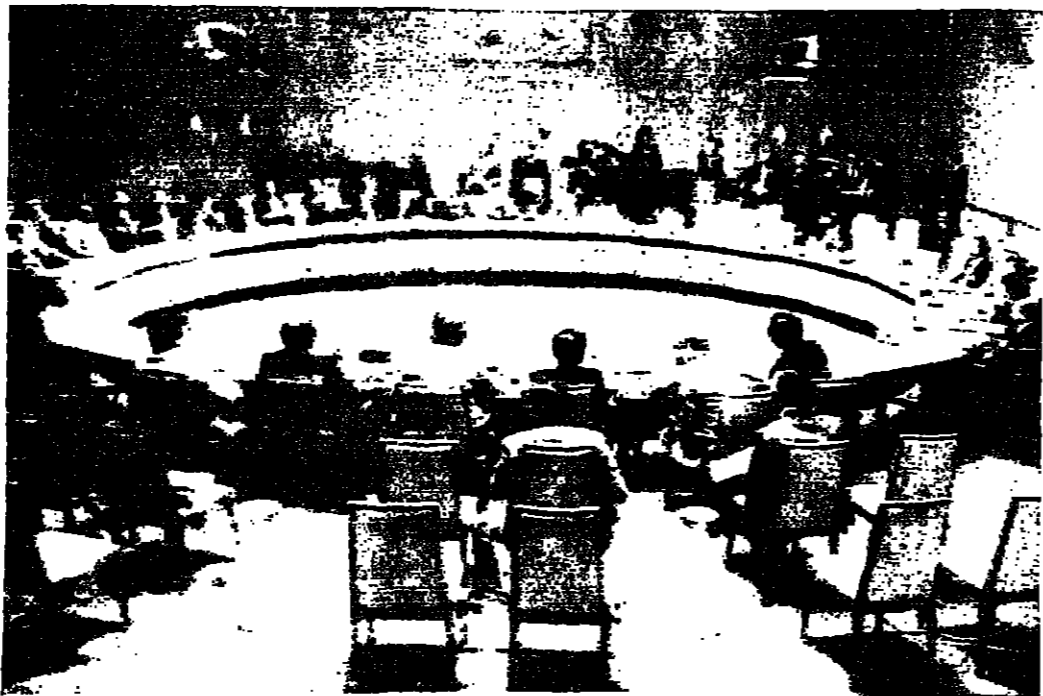
"I hope very much that, through further efforts on all sides, it will prove possible to bring about the adjustments which are indispensable to further progress in solving the problem," he said.

Dr. Waldheim, who visited Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Jordan and Israel during his mission, discussed the Middle East situation at the weekend with President Carter and Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, who is also just back from the area.

The Security Council is expected to consider Dr. Waldheim's report in March.

Whereas at the start the United Nations decision creating the state of Israel had been disputed by the Arabs, "in the four countries mentioned the existence of the Israeli state is now recognised," he said, "I call that realism."

But Arab leaders wanted Palestinian participation in a settlement, and the Palestinian entity to be established on territories evacuated by Israel and to have a link with Jordan.



OPEC MEETING -- Finance ministers of member countries of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) open their meeting Monday at the Conference Hall in Vienna's Hofburg Palace. The ministers are meeting to allocate the sum of \$1 billion in aid to Third World nations.

OPEC meets in Vienna to allocate \$1b in aid to Third World nations

VIENNA, Feb. 28 (R). — Oil-exporting nations set priorities today for allocation of millions of petrodollars in aid to Third World governments burdened by higher petroleum prices.

Finance ministers of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) will decide this week on the distribution of nearly \$1 billion taken from oil sale profits.

The finance ministers met under tight security at Vienna's Hofburg Palace to plan the second phase of an aid scheme launched by OPEC for the benefit of the Third World.

While OPEC has refused to sanction price discounts for poorer Asian, African and Latin American customers, it has agreed to siphon off a share of oil revenues to help pay for industrial and other projects in developing countries.

OPEC spokesman Hamid Zaheri said the finance ministers would probably allocate funds for interest-free balance of payments support loans, for project financing, and for a United Nations fund to cushion raw material producers against sudden price fluctuations.

Mr. Zaheri said a current OPEC dispute over oil prices had nothing to do with the finance ministers and would not be aired at the two-day meeting. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have refused to join other OPEC members in a projected 15 per cent price rise this year.

OPEC decided last December to provide development aid worth \$800 million in 1977. A similar sum was voted last year, and more than \$600 million have been distributed so far.

The OPEC spokesman said all 13 members of the organisation would contribute this year, including Ecuador, which backed out last year for financial reasons.

He said the finance ministers would decide on the size of national contributions, expected to be similar to last year, when OPEC's richest members, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela, made the largest donations, totalling more than \$500 million.

Other OPEC members are Algeria, Gabon, Indonesia, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates. Hundreds of Austrian police were mobilised to protect the finance ministers when they arrived during the weekend, and at their hotel and at all approaches to the palace where they met.

Austria's toughest security net was ordered because the government was seriously embarrassed when guerrillas ambushed an OPEC conference here in December 1975 and seized 10 oil ministers as hostages.

Although the finance ministers have twice met here since the 1975 raid, and smaller OPEC meetings have also been held at the organisation's Vienna headquarters, the oil ministers, who set prices, have refused to return to the Austrian capital. They have arranged their next meeting in Stockholm in July.

Clifford tells Owen in London: All parties to Cypriot dispute want it dealt with this year

LONDON, Feb. 28, (R). — All the parties involved in the protracted Cyprus dispute wanted it dealt with this year, U.S. presidential envoy Clark Clifford made clear here today, informed British sources said.

He added that the United States shared this desire, they reported.

Mr. Clifford, a former defence secretary, was briefing Britain's Foreign Secretary Dr. David Owen after visiting Athens, Ankara, and Nicosia to find out how the United States could help end the dispute between the majority Greek-Cypriots and minority Turkish-Cypriots on the island.

The sources said it was clear from Mr. Clifford's report that a considerable number of intractable problems had to be solved.

Mr. Clifford, who arrived here from Nicosia on Saturday, will fly back to Washington tomorrow.

Mr. Clifford, during the one-hour meeting with Dr. Owen, reported a feeling that some modest progress had been achieved which it was important to follow up in the inter-communal talks. These are due to be resumed in Vienna at the end of March.

The sources said the British felt the Cypriot problem should be solvable through the inter-communal talks.

Mr. Clifford has said that if the same spirit of goodwill is shown when both sides get together in Vienna as was shown to him during his mission, he could see no reason why a settlement could not be reached this year.

"In the past they have both just made speeches at each other. But now they agree that serious negotiations should begin," he told reporters on arrival here.

Mr. Clifford specially briefed Dr. Owen, who became foreign secretary a week ago following the death of Mr. Anthony Crosland, because he is chairman of the European Economic Community's Council of Ministers.

The nine-nation European Community has told Greece, Turkey, President Archbishop Makarios of Cyprus and his opposite number Turkish-Cypriot leader, Mr. Rauf Denkash, that a solution should preserve the territorial integrity of the Cypriot Republic.

Such a solution, in the Common Market view, should provide the viability and security of the Cypriot state and of both communities.

The nine hope that concessions on both sides, taking into account the legitimate interests of the two communities, will result in an equitable settlement as regards both territory and institutions.

The Common Market countries look forward to effective progress towards a negotiated settlement within a realistic timescale, British officials recalled.

Mr. Frank Judd, the new British Deputy Foreign Minister, attended today's Clifford-Owen talks.

Dr. Owen later gave an official luncheon in Mr. Clifford's honour.

Pledge to liberate occupied territories Egypt, Syria, Sudan form unified command

KHARTOUM, Feb. 28 (R). — Egypt, Syria and Sudan today agreed to form a unified political command, and pledged to use all their resources to liberate occupied Arab territories if Israel continued to obstruct Middle East peace efforts.

Presidents Anwar Sadat of Egypt, Hafez Assad of Syria and Jaafar Nimeiri of Sudan announced the decisions in a joint communique tonight after two days of talks here.

The communique did not make clear whether the unified command would be along the same lines as that established last December between Egypt and Syria.

It said joint committees would be set up to draft unified policies in constitutional affairs, defence, national security, foreign affairs, economy, finance, education, culture and administration.

The move stemmed from the presidents' belief in full Arab unity as a strategic goal, it said.

The three leaders said that "they reaffirm that all military and economic means would be used to liberate Arab territories and restore the rights of the Palestinian people if the Israeli enemy continued putting obstacles to obstruct political efforts to realise a just and permanent peace."

President Assad said he hoped the command would become the nucleus for full Arab unity in the future.

Gush Emunim tries to set up new settlement

TEL AVIV, Feb. 28 (R). — A group of 30 ultra-nationalist Israelis yesterday began to set up an unauthorised settlement about 22 kms northeast of Tel Aviv just inside the occupied West Bank.

The young men and women told reporters they were the vanguard of 800 members of Gush Emunim (Faith Bloc) who plan to establish a permanent settlement near the Arab village of Mesha.

They brought tents and building material, moving into an abandoned former Jordanian police station.

The Gush Emunim movement made three attempts to settle at Mesha last year but were forced out by the Israeli army.

Meanwhile, about 50 Arab students have gone on a three-day hunger strike at Hebrew University to protest against the poor prison conditions under which Arab inmates of Ashkelon jail are held.

There are 386 Palestinians held in Ashkelon jail. They went on a hunger strike at the end of last week to protest against the conditions of their imprisonment. They also went on hunger strike for several weeks last month and in December.

Amin: Meeting with Americans arranged at their own request

NAIROBI, Feb. 28, (Agencies) — President Idi Amin, reverting to a reassuring tone about Americans in Uganda, said today that his Wednesday meeting with them was actually being arranged at their request.

Radio Uganda, reporting the president to be in a "jovial mood," said he had also thanked Americans working for Uganda Airlines and assured them that "Uganda would never be against them."

The president thanked American missionaries in his country for their work and said they deserved honours.

Radio Uganda dropped previous warnings of possible invasion attempts and orders for an around-the-clock alert by the armed services issued yesterday.

A group of American airmen and engineers fly and service Uganda Airline planes.

Radio Uganda said President Amin visited them at Entebbe Airport and "thanked them for their excellent work in flying Uganda's exports and imports."

The broadcast said: "The field marshal, in jovial mood, told the expatriates to enjoy themselves. He added he

President Nimeiri described the agreement as the real beginning in a unitary upsurge of the Arab nation.

But all three leaders were known to be anxious not to rush into union too hastily. The memories of the ill-fated Syrian-Egyptian union in the United Arab Republic between 1958 and 1961 are still vivid.

Egypt and Sudan agreed on a political and economic integration pact in February 1974 and signed a defence agreement last July.

Egypt and Syria established a unified political command last December.

Observers saw the integration of Sudan into the unified command as a natural development of the economic integration programme and strong defence links already existing between Cairo and Khartoum.

Policy towards Libya and Red Sea security were among the key issues underlying the meeting between the three presidents of according to observers here.

Saudi Arabia's Oil Minister, Sheikh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, arrived in Khartoum yesterday. The official reason given for his visit was to attend a meeting of the Saudi-Sudanese committee for the exploitation of Red Sea minerals.

But Sheikh Yamani was quoted by the Sudan News Agency as having said Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the Sudan were working together to ensure Red Sea security.

President Nimeiri received two messages from Saudi Crown Prince Fahd and the Saudi government in the past two days. The messages were believed to be within the framework of the continuing consultations between the two countries.

Reliable sources said Saudi Arabia had opted to make its views on Red Sea security known through contacts with Sudan.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmy who is in Khartoum for the meeting, described the importance of the summit as "historic". As President Sadat had pointed out, Mr. Fahmy said, the three countries represented half the population of the Arab World, and all were "confrontation states."

The Red Sea, Mr. Fahmy said, was an Arab "lake of peace" and Egypt could not afford to see foreign influence there.

President Sadat and Assad later left for Cairo.

President Assad is expected to return to Damascus tomorrow, the Egyptian official Middle East News Agency said.

Authoritative sources said yesterday that President Sarkis is to pay an official visit to France at the end of April or the beginning of May.

In a separate development, the Kuwaiti newspaper Al-Qabas reported today that a number of senior Lebanese army and police officers had resigned, including the army commander, Gen. Hanna Saad.

In a despatch from Beirut, the newspaper said others who had resigned under a government offer of option included Col. Antoine Barakat, who fought alongside the rightists in Lebanon's civil war, and Col. Antoine Dahdah, Director General of Public Security.

According to the paper, the Lebanese government had issued two decrees granting such officers a three-month period in which to resign if they wished, after which it would have the right to retire them on pension or discharge them.

On the economic scene, Saudi Arabia has decided to give Lebanon 50 million Lebanese pounds (about £10 million) to extend relief to war refugees.

This was announced today by Saudi Ambassador Ali Al-Sheer on his arrival here from London after visiting King Khaled, now convalescing there after an operation.

It said the presence of U.S. warships off the east African coast had to be taken seriously and added that any invading force would be crushed before it reached Uganda.

In a related development, Uganda has invited the U.S. government to send an observer to President Amin's meeting with the Americans living in Uganda, a State Department spokesman said.

But the spokesman said the government had not yet decided whether to have a representative at the meeting.

The Ugandan Charge d'Affaires in Washington, Paul Cherub, telephoned the invitation to the State Department during the weekend, the spokesman said.

President Jimmy Carter said yesterday that Washington was watching the situation in Uganda very closely and "trying not to upset President Amin."

The president said the United Nations had offered to intercede on American residents' behalf "but we've handled our affairs through the German Embassy and so far there's nothing to cause deep concern," he added.



CLIFFORD-OWEN TALKS -- Mr. Clark Clifford, U.S. President Carter's special Aegean envoy (left), talks with Britain's new Foreign Secretary Dr. David Owen during their meeting at London's Foreign Office Monday. (AP wirephoto).

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A modest proposal?

Although the integration of Sudan into the Egypto-Syrian political command does not automatically transform the Red Sea into an Arab lake, it is nevertheless a development with considerable potential.

The agreement, if carried through to its logical conclusion, could affect the destinies of over half the population of the Arab World, and no doubt enjoys the blessings of the rest of the Arab nation, with the possible exception of Libya, if that country is given reason to believe that the alignment is directed against it. Saudi Arabia's Sheikh Yamani is in Khartoum and there are indications that the move, with its implications for Red Sea security, has sparked his country's interest.

The agreement between the three countries is being concluded with the newly fashionable caution which now characterises Arab alignments. The idea is to delineate areas of mutual interest and to conclude limited agreements that are justified by those interests. This is a commendable form of caution and a much needed concession to realism in the Arab World. The Khartoum accord is, nevertheless, more than just a modest proposal.

The agreement could in future transform the Red Sea into an Arab lake. Saudi Arabia is trying to improve its relations with Yemen and Somalia. Arab backing for the Eritrean Liberation Front would be a sound investment for strategic and not just ideological reasons. Djibouti is also about to earn its independence this year from France, and in view of the rival between Ethiopia on the one hand and Somalia and Sudan on the other regarding the future of the territory, political (and military) coordination between Egypt, Sudan and Syria is a good, far-sighted measure. Lack of planning for the future has been a traditional Arab shortcoming.

One way in which Syria comes into the picture concerns Israel's potential involvement in the area. Israel is trying to rebuild its bridges with Africa and is obviously concerned with the gateway to Sharm Al Sheikh and Eilat. Arab control over the southern gateway to the Red Sea could influence Israeli thinking on a withdrawal from Sinai. Arab control is neither imminent nor assured, but reports of Israeli jets using Ethiopian air bases highlights the importance Israel is expected to attach to the question of control over Bab Al Mandab.

A military agreement between Egypt and Sudan is no doubt adequate for dealing with any threat from Ethiopia, but not from Israel. Syria, of course, cannot be expected to intervene militarily in any conflict between Ethiopia and Sudan, but it is badly needed to offset any Israeli intervention. Whereas this would not sway the scales, military and political coordination with Syria in such a case is an obvious must.

At the same time, the confrontation states, two of which are involved in the latest agreement, are looking to Saudi Arabia for financial support. In view of Saudi interest in the Red Sea, this agreement should make a package deal more interesting to the Saudis.

At the same time Sudan is being transformed into the breadbasket of the Arab World with funds from the Kuwait based Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development. The Khartoum agreement should help guarantee that these funds will continue to flow into Sudan.



"It says negotiations between Israelites, Egyptians, and Philistines are proceeding slowly."

Chirac seeks Paris mayor post to launch anti-left campaign

PARIS, Feb 27, (R). — The campaign for the election of the mayor of Paris in mid-March has begun with ambitious Gaullist ex-Premier Jacques Chirac defiantly in the field against a personal nominee of President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing.

The president and his one-time premier M. Chirac who quit over policy differences last August are rivals to lead anti-left forces in France against a growing challenge from an alliance of Socialists and Communists.

The Paris mayor's post is a new one and is expected to be an influential position in the French political hierarchy.

It is one of thousands of municipal posts to be filled in local elections on March 19 and 20 — seen as a curtain-raiser to a showdown between left and right in parliamentary elections just one year away.

M. Chirac stakes his political future on beating Presidential nominee Michel d'Ornano, the Industry Minister, in the Paris vote.

Defeat for M. d'Ornano will deal a serious blow to presidential prestige at a critical time.

The president and his ex-premier differ sharply on how to tackle a threat from the socialist-communist alliance, which is treating the municipal ballot as a test of its general election strength.

The March poll is designed to settle largely local contests for mayor in more than 36,000 villages, towns and cities throughout the country.

Both the government forces and the opposition left are troubled by internal divisions and the two sides have been trying desperately to present as united a front as possible.

On the government side, the Gaullists, the president's Independent Republicans and the Centrists have managed to agree on joint lists of candidates in all but a score of the 220 major towns.

The Socialists and Communists have compiled joint lists in only 185 of these big provincial centres, but are confident a popular leftward thrust over the last five years will continue.

Government supporters at present control about two thirds of France's town halls,

but it will be difficult to measure the results of the municipal vote in terms of a victory for left or right.

In many towns, personalities count far more than politics in local elections. A mayor has greater standing in France than in most other European countries and in some cases his prestige can rival that of the late Mayor Richard Daley in Chicago.

Former Prime Minister Jacques Chaban-delas, a Gaullist "baron", is unlikely to be removed from his fief in Bordeaux, where he has been mayor for 30 years. Deputy Socialist leader Gastin Defferre is just as firmly implanted as mayor of Marseilles.

But their power will be dwarfed by the influence of the new mayor of Paris, a post that had over a 100-year lapse during which the government itself has virtually run the French capital.

M. Chirac sees the Paris post, ranked by some as third most powerful in the country after president prime minister, as a key base for organising his campaign against the left in the coming parliamentary struggle.

ECONOSCOPE By Jawad Ahmad

Big is good, but it can be better

There are two economic agents that can be big; first, a man, and second, an establishment. Until recently it was difficult to distinguish between the two, i.e., a big man was associated with the big establishment.

Jordan is a relatively small market, and those who could make it big were a minority. All they needed was a vivid imagination, access to a large sum of money, and some political influence. These were the most important inputs required for conducting successful economic ventures.

The import sector used to offer the most lucrative business undertakings. Bigness almost invariably started from that sector. After reassuring handsome and reassuring returns, an importer would then start seeking other profitable ventures either within the import sector or in others.

Inter-sector mobility was aided by a free economic system and by the absence of the need to specialise. Therefore, we found glaring examples of a big man heading a big establishment with an odd combination of activities.

As long as the size of each different venture was moderately reasonable and its risk margin low, such dispersion over a large ground was possible. This, however, is becoming less tenable, and concentration is taking a different tone.

The freedom to manoeuvre among sectors is gradually limiting itself. The reason is mainly due to the enlarging size of the market which does not only allow division of labour but requires it.

Any successful venture in any sector must now observe optimal size considerations. Cost components are becoming more sticky as is evident in the cases of loanable funds, wages, land, taxes, etc. The prices of factors of production impose a market dictate which is not easily altered, and thus determine a minimum firm size.

If the size of business firms or establishments has to be of a given magnitude, the element of risk becomes very high.

To disperse risk, equity must be shared by many parties in order to decrease the potential share in loss. This wider participation in equity will lead to the separation of ownership from management.

The result of the current economic happenings in Jordan is obviously a different kind of big men and big establishments.

There will be large specialised establishments within each economic sector, that are managed by able men who are not necessarily the owners.

This might be a happy development. But beware. This young rising class of aggressive and educated persons might not be more humane than those old versatile paternalistic managers.

One should not pass any value judgments on this development before one sees its conduct. But government authorities must be on the alert to hedge against its potential mischiefs.

Britain's Labour Party members make call for realignment

LONDON, Feb 28, (R). — Britain's ruling Labour Party, which is wondering how to regain some of its lost popularity, is experiencing a new height of bitterness between the Marxists on its left and the Social Democrats on its right.

The party's leaders are struggling to maintain their precarious middle road, convinced that this is the way to attract votes in any possible election in the next few years.

But one of Labour's strongest leftists, Energy Secretary Tony Benn, was reported to have said in a recent talk to the left wing, that in British politics "there is no middle course any more."

Ironically, his words were almost echoed on a separate occasion by former Overseas Development Minister Reg Prentice, who is an outspoken member of Labour's right.

Mr. Prentice even called for a break-up of the party so that moderates could reorganise themselves into a new Social Democratic grouping.

Labour has ruled here since 1974, with Britain in a state of constant economic crisis which has forced the government to take unpopular measures. The government's term ends

in 1979 but Prime Minister James Callaghan is expected to call an election before then to try for more seats in parliament where Labour is in a minority position at present and relies on support from smaller groups. Labour has 314 seats and the combined opposition parties 315.

With this in mind, Mr. Benn spoke to the party's left wing Tribune Group about how future elections could be won. To keep leaders like Mr. Callaghan more in line with general party dogma, Mr. Benn proposed a series of reforms such as restricting the way in which premiers can hand out posts to their own supporters.

Some leftists at the meeting were reported to have expressed impatience at Mr. Benn, however. They called for changes in government policies now. Meanwhile, Labour's moderates also with an eye on future elections have launched attacks aimed at reducing the power of left wing.

There have been allegations that the party is being infiltrated by Trotskyists. Other moderates have complained that a "communist" image would ruin the party's chances with the public.

Mr. Prentice himself is a victim of Trotskyist infiltrators, who packed his local branch committee in his London constituency a year ago and voted to reject him as its candidate in the next election.

Most of Labour's moderate do not want to go as far as Mr. Prentice. They want to restrain the influence of leftists but at the same time to preserve broad unity of various groups. Mr. Prentice, however, think it is too late. He told a public meeting: "There has got to be a realignment in British politics because the present parties are not meeting the aspirations of the electorate."

He did not set out any blue print for a break-up of the Labour Party, but he recently resigned from his ministerial post, saying he could continue identifying with government policies.

It is generally believed that he sees an opportunity, he will step outside Labour's ranks to form the embryo of what he hopes would become the British Social Democrat Party.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

JORDAN TELEVISION

Channel 3 & 6	10:15 Arabic series
6:00 Quran	Channel 6
6:05 Cartoons	7:30 News in Hebrew
6:30 Apples way	7:45 Varieties
8:00 News in Arabic	8:30 The last of the baskets
Channel 3	9:10 Rich man poor man
7:30 Arabic series	10:00 News in English
8:30 Arabic series	10:15 Hawaii 5-0
9:20 Reportage	

RADIO JORDAN

7:00 Morning melodies	15:00 Concert hour
7:30 News	16:00 Old favourites
7:40 News reports	16:30 Easy listening
8:00 Sign off	17:00 Mail bag
12:00 Pop session	17:45 Pop session
13:00 News summary	18:00 News summary
13:05 Pop session	18:05 Arabs in history
14:00 News	18:30 Sing it again
14:10 Radio magazine	19:00 News
14:30 Special feature	19:10 News reports
	19:30 Sign off

EMERGENCIES

Doctors:	Times apologises for this omission.
Amman:	Zarga:
Suleiman Hyassat (25015)	Amal
Abdul Salam Mahsiri (77733)	Aqsa
Irbid:	Taxis:
Jabri Mustapha	Talal (25021)
Zarga:	Tower (21028)
Ghazi Fayyad	Khayam (41541)
Pharmacies:	Nahda (62003)
No details were available on pharmacies. The Jordan	

AMMAN AIRPORT

Arrivals:	19:40 Beirut (MEA)
7:30 Baghdad (IA)	00:30 (Alitalia)
8:30 Bangkok, Bahrain	Departures:
8:40 Dubai, Abu Dhabi	8:00 Beirut
9:30 Kuwait (KAC)	8:30 Baghdad (IA)
10:30 Beirut	8:45 Beirut (MEA)
10:40 Karachi, Kuwait (BA)	10:15 Kuwait, (KAC)
11:15 Aleppo, Damascus (SAA)	10:30 Cairo
12:10 Muscat, Abu Dhabi, Doha (GA)	11:00 Geneva, Brussels, Amsterdam
14:10 Aqaba (SAA)	11:40 London (BA)
17:00 Cairo	12:00 Aqaba (SAA)
17:10 London	13:00 Athens (GA)
17:15 Paris, Rome	14:45 Damascus (SAA)
17:30 Copenhagen, Frankfurt	19:00 Bahrain, Bangkok
18:10 Madrid, Athens	19:30 Abu Dhabi, Karachi
18:15 Amsterdam, Athens (KLM)	21:00 Jeddah
	22:55 Doha, Muscat
	01:15 Dubai (Alitalia)

BBC RADIO

GMT	15:00 Radio Newswheel
05:00 News; 24 hours	15:15 Outlook
05:30 Sarah Ward	16:00 News; Commentary
05:45 The World Today	16:15 Lord Peter Wimsey; Clouds of Witness
06:00 News; Press Review	16:45 The World Today
06:30 Folk and Country	17:00 News
07:00 News; 24 hours	17:09 Books and Writers
07:30 Sarah Ward	17:30 Take One
07:45 Money, Money, Money	17:45 Sports Round-up
08:00 News	18:00 News; News about Britain
08:15 Short Story	18:15 Radio Newswheel
08:30 Composer and Interpreter	18:30 Talkabout
09:00 News; U.K. Press Review	19:00 Outlook; News Summary
09:15 The World Today	19:42 Stock Market Report
09:30 Financial News	19:45 One Piano, Four Hands
09:45 Look Ahead	20:00 News; 24 hours
10:15 Ulster '77	20:30 The Pleasure's Yours
10:30 Eric Morecambe and Ernie Wise	21:00 Business and Industry
11:00 News; News about Britain	21:15 Ulster '77
11:15 Alone I did it	21:30 Farming World
11:30 Sports International	22:00 News; The World Today
12:00 Radio Newswheel	22:25 Financial News
12:15 The Pleasure's Yours	22:35 Aria
12:45 Sports Round-up	22:45 Sports Round-up
13:00 News; 24 hours	23:00 News; Commentary
14:15 Report on Religion	23:15 Nature Notebook
14:30 Talkabout	

VOICE OF AMERICA

GMT	16:00 Special English. News, Feature: Science in the News, News Summary.
03:00	The Breakfast Show; to 03:30, 04:00, 05:00 and 06:00 GMT
06:30	Regional and Topical Reports, VOA Current News Summary, 03:30, 04:30 and 05:30 GMT
19:30	VOA Magazine, American Science, Cultural Letters.
20:00	Special English. News, Music USA (Jazz).
21:00	VOA World Report News... newsmakers' voices... correspondents' reports... background features... media commentaries... news analyses.
17:00	News Roundup, Reports, Actualities, Opinions, Analyses, News Summary, Dailies

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Ambulance (government)	Tel. 75111
Civil defence rescue	" 24391-4
Fire headquarters	" 22890
First aid, fire, police	" 19
Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency)	" 36381-2
Municipal water service (emergency)	" 37111-3
Police headquarters	" 39141
Najfeh, roving patrol rescue police, (English spoken) 24 hours a day for emergency help	" 21111, 9777

Cultural Centres

American Centre (USIS)	Tel. 41220
British Council	" 36147-9
French Cultural Centre	" 37090
Goethe Institute	" 41983
Soviet Cultural Centre	" 44393
Amman Municipal Library	" 36111

Handwritten text in Arabic script: "مركز الصحافة"

On show at the Goethe Institute

The art of painting on wax

An exhibition of batik prints -- or the unique art of dyeing cloth -- opened today at the Goethe Institute. On display is a collection of prints by local artists Michèle Mills, Ginny Barnes and Mary Zoub showing animals, birds, butterflies, flowers and human figures in intricately blended shapes and colours. If you want a glimpse of this centuries-old art, drop in at the institute today or tomorrow between 10-1 p.m. & 4-7 p.m.

by Michele Mills and Dr. Blade

schools all over the world.

When you are doing batik work, the most suitable materials to use are cotton or silk. No artificial silk or man-made fibre should be used.

After washing the cloth (to remove the starch), drying it and ironing it, you select the design you intend to make and draw it on your cloth. Once you have selected your design, you must decide what your colour scheme will be, bearing in mind that your cloth will be dyed from the lightest shade to

the darkest. You then draw your design with a pencil. Then warm up some wax (preferably a mixture of paraffin wax or ordinary candle wax and a little bees wax). Have brushes of various sizes ready and when your pot of wax is hot, carefully cover with wax the part of the design that will remain white. You must make sure the wax has taken on both sides of your design and you then dip your entire cloth into a vat containing your palest colour. You let the piece dry on a clothes line -- using plastic clothes pegs preferably -- and then again wax the parts which will remain in the softest colour. Then you dip the cloth into your next colour, let it dry, and wax it again and so on until you obtain your final colour. You must bear in mind that certain colours destroy each other; for instance, if you dip a piece of cloth already dipped in blue into yellow, you will not get yellow but green as the result.

Good luck and happy 'batik-ing' !!

a very hot iron to melt and remove the wax. Batik is a fascinating hobby but remember to use old clothes when working as you will get spashed with all sorts of colours and so will your work room! Also remember to use rubber gloves when applying the dyes.

Good luck and happy 'batik-ing' !!

PUBLIC HOLIDAY DECLARED TOMORROW

AMMAN (JNA). -- Wednesday March 2 has been declared a public holiday on the occasion of the Prophet's birthday, according to an official notice issued Sunday by Prime Minister Mudar Badran.

Furthermore, the Public Security Department has announced that a number of Amman streets will be closed between 3.30-5.00 p.m. Tuesday, when a scout parade will take place on the eve of the Prophet's birthday. The streets affected are King Hussein, Faisal, and Hashemi Street up to the municipality building.

Rice accord with Egypt concluded

AMMAN (JNA). -- Minister of Supply Marwan Al Qassem returned here from Cairo Sunday evening after reaching an agreement with the Egyptian authorities on supplying Jordan with Egyptian rice under the trade protocol recently signed between the two countries. It is understood that the price of rice this year will be lower than last year.

NATIONAL NOTES

* DAMASCUS. -- The Joint Jordanian-Syrian Committee for Industrial Coordination will meet in Amman next Saturday to study the coordination process among industries already established and those about to be established or under consideration, whose invested capital does not exceed JD 2 million in both countries.

* AMMAN. -- The board of the Jordanian Automatic Bakeries Company Monday held a meeting chaired by the Under-Secretary at the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Dr. Hashem Dabbas, to discuss final steps to be taken to liquidate the company after its ownership was transferred to the Ministry of Supply.

* AMMAN. -- The Executive Council of Jordan's Union of Chambers of Commerce will meet Thursday to discuss the union's participation in Jordan Day, which the joint Arab-French Chamber of Commerce will hold in Paris May 25, and participation in the Arab Union of Chambers of Commerce conference to be held in Beirut in May.

* AMMAN. -- A royal decree was issued approving the appointment of Ibrahim Izzeddin as Ambassador to West Germany. He replaces the present Minister of Industry and Commerce, Dr. Najmeddin Dajani.

* AMMAN. -- A protocol regulating trade between Jordan and Sudan was submitted to the cabinet for study and approval, the Under Secretary at the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Dr. Hashem Dabbas, stated Sunday. The protocol, which was the result of recent economic talks between the two countries, provides for an increase in trade exchange to \$3.5 million on each side.

* AMMAN. -- The assistant director of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Amman Monday paid a visit to Yarmouk University, where President Adnan Badran informed him of present and future plans for the university.

W. Bank mayors protest against high land tax

AMMAN (JNA). -- A number of West Bank mayors have protested against the high tax rates, which the Israeli authorities have imposed on agricultural land. They have also demanded the abolition of the property tax in a number of villages.

The Jerusalem Arabic-language newspaper Al Quds said the Israeli finance minister had issued a decree raising the annual land tax to more than 7,000 Israeli pounds for every dunum of land. Al Quds described this tax as "very excessive", one which land-owners would not be able to pay.

Financing of Aqaba project discussed

AMMAN (JNA). -- Ways of financing the giant JD 80 million project to build a tourist complex in the Aqaba area were

discussed at a meeting held Monday morning between Mr. John MacDonald, Chairman of the Council for the Promotion of Canadian Exports, and Tourism Minister Ghaleb Barakat.

OCT. 1976 TRADE WITH SYRIA SHOWS A LOSS

AMMAN (JNA). -- Jordanian-Syrian trade figures showed a loss of JD 208,000 in October 1976.

Jordan's exports to Syria totalled JD 441,000, compared with JD 288,000 in October 1975, an increase of 53 per cent.

Imports from Syria amounted to JD 649,000, compared with JD 413,000 in October 1975, an increase of 57 per cent.

Main Jordanian exports were medicine, hides, perfumed soap, plastic utensils and gas cookers. Imports from Syria included livestock, wheat, biscuits, cotton clothing, ready-made garments, sweets and kerosene stoves.

Canada is playing a major role in this project to boost Aqaba's tourist potential.

Earlier, Mr. MacDonald had talks on increasing economic and trade cooperation between Canada and Jordan with Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Abdul Salam Majali, Minister of Industry and Commerce Najmeddin Dajani and President of the National Planning Council Dr. Hanna Odeh.

Exchange Rates

Following are the official exchange rates in effect at the start of today's business day, as set by the Central Bank of Jordan.

The first column is how much you would receive in Jordanian fils for selling a unit of the foreign currency, while the second column denotes how much it would cost you to buy a unit of the foreign currency:

U.K. sterling	569.0	575.0
U.S. dollar	332.0	334.0
German mark	139.1	139.5
French franc	68.8	67.1
Swiss franc	130.9	131.3
Italian lira (for every 100)	37.7	37.9
Saudi riyal	94.0	94.4
Lebanese pound	110.9	111.7
Syrian pound	82.4	82.8
Iraqi dinar	943.0	948.0
Kuwaiti dinar	1,152.0	1,158.0
Egyptian pound	465.0	472.0
Libyan dinar	800.0	810.0
UAE dirham	85.2	85.8

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In wake of Bitsios visit

Communique urges Israeli withdrawal

AMMAN (JNA). -- The Jordanian-Greek communique broadcast Monday in both Athens and Amman stressed the fact that Israel should withdraw from all Arab lands occupied in 1967.

The communique went on to say that Jordan and Greece look with satisfaction on present efforts to reach a settlement on Cyprus, which should ensure the country's non-alignment.

The communique was released after Greek Foreign Minister Dimitri Bitsios left for Cairo Sunday on the next leg of his Middle East tour.

Both countries will work together to strengthen bilateral relations in the fields of economic, commerce, culture and technology, the communique added.

Both countries stated their recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and that each state in the region is entitled to live in peace within secure and recognised borders.

Premier Mudar Badran accepted an invitation to visit Greece, extended by Mr. Bitsios.

Greece signs trade accord with Jordan

AMMAN (JNA). -- Jordan and Greece Sunday signed a trade exchange agreement increasing trade and offering all possible facilities for the exchange of commodities between the two countries. The accord also aims to encourage trade exhibitions in both countries.

A joint committee will meet yearly in Athens and Amman -- on an alternate basis -- to follow up implementation of the agreement. A supplement to the agreement was issued naming the Jordanian and Greek goods that can be exchanged.

The agreement was signed for Jordan by Minister of Industry and Commerce Najmeddin Dajani and for Greece by Foreign Minister Dimitri Bitsios.

FAO body to give Jordan \$7 million

AMMAN (JNA). -- The Executive Director of the World Food Programme of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Mr. Robinson, Sunday announced that the programme will provide Jordan with \$7 million for its school food programme.

Mr. Robinson made the statement before he and his assistant left for Rome Sunday after a six-day visit to Jordan.

During his stay, Mr. Robinson was shown a number of agricultural projects. He was particularly impressed by the reclamation of desert and highlands projects and the sedimentation of the basins. He said the World Food Programme will consider whether to endorse a five-year project to reclaim 200,000 dunums of highlands.

What's Going On

A film entitled "Aces High". 6.30 p.m., at the British Council, Jabal Amman.

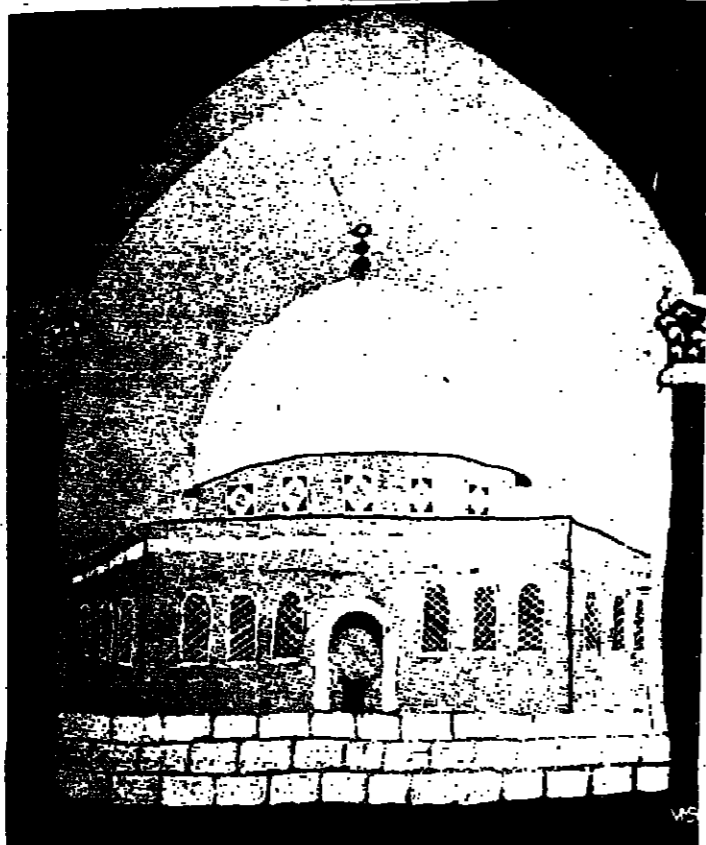
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Technology advances to safeguard nuclear materials

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO (CSM) — Although it looks like an ordinary motor home, the vehicle being built at Sandia Laboratories here might have driven straight out of the pages of James Bond.

Customised with armour plate, bullet-proof windows, and special communications and protection devices, this is the first of a new fleet of escort vehicles designed to guard government shipments of special nuclear materials (SNM). These are forms of uranium and plutonium which -- if stolen -- could conceivably be fashioned into crude atomic bombs.

Sandia experts have done a great deal of classified research on safeguarding nuclear weapons for the Department of Defence. In the last few years, they have been increasingly applying their expertise to devise protection for all sorts of nuclear materials both in transit and inside nuclear plants.

The new escort vehicles are part of a general upgrading of the protection provided U.S. nuclear materials, which also includes a government-devised routing system and development of computer-deployed tracers, sensors, and alarms.

A decade ago the transportation of nuclear materials was carried out with minimal security precautions. But growing concern about the possibility of theft by terrorist groups -- and the growing awareness that terrorists might be able to use these materials to make a crude atomic bomb -- has caused the government to increase its protective efforts.

Twenty-one "super secure" trucks now are carrying SNM shipments about the country, says Orval E. Jones, director of Sandia's Nuclear Security Systems Division.

There are large semi-trailer-trucks with special safeguards built in.

The trucks come equipped with radios which, at the punch of a button, send out a continuous alarm signal that does not shut off until the communications centre in Albuquerque has acknowledged the distress call. The truck's wheels lock automatically, so it cannot be driven to a secret location. Electronic locks and penetration-resistant steel walls, quick-setting foam, and anti-personnel gases are also incorporated.

So far, these vehicles have run a total of 1.5 million miles without incident, says Mr. Jones.

Another type of protection comes from a communications system which was improved

several years ago. At present, escort couriers report the position of the trucks every half hour. Under development is an electronics package that automatically and continuously reports the location of a convoy, say Sandia experts.

In case of a heavily armed attack, state police would be notified. But the capabilities of the police to respond vary greatly from one location to

another, so the Energy Research and Development Administration, which has overall responsibility in this matter, has recently completed a nationwide assessment of the situation. This has been put on computer, and the results are used to map out the safest routes available for nuclear shipments.

This elaborate system is used only for government-owned

shipments of nuclear materials. At present, they represent the lion's share of such material that is shipped. However, the amount of this material associated with the nuclear industry is expected to increase substantially over the next decade, especially if the decision is made to use plutonium in nuclear reactor fuel.

There currently is debate over whether commercial ship-

ments should be protected by the government or by industry.

Some critics are concerned that private interests would not do an adequate job because of the costs involved. Others are concerned that protecting the nuclear industry might give rise to a large federal police force and pose a possible threat to civil liberties.

The official estimate of the number of people needed to guard nuclear shipments and facilities is 26,000 by the year 2000.

"Safeguards are expensive," admits Mr. Jones. Yet they would add less than 4 per cent to the total cost of nuclear energy -- with transportation protection amounting to less than one-twentieth of one per cent.

As for protecting materials inside nuclear plants, "We feel we have now worked out a good approach," says Mr. Jones.

So far much of this work has been done on computer -- developing methods so that specific buildings and security systems can be analysed to determine the "soft paths" where the facility is most in jeopardy," adds Joe Stiegler, in charge of the building security effort.

In general, the "softest paths" involve an insider. Therefore, keeping track of personnel is of prime importance, say the experts. So they have come up with a special identification system. This consists of ordinary-looking plastic cards which can be carried in pocket, purse, or wallet.

When an employee approaches the gate at the beginning of a shift, however, a detector "reads" the card even when it is out of sight and flashes a picture of its proper carrier on a screen in front of a guard. During working hours, detectors keep track of the position of each employee by means of the ID card. If someone goes into an area where he is unauthorised, an alarm is automatically triggered. Or, if a person is detected without an ID card, the guards are alerted.

"This has the added value that, should there be an accident, it is possible to find out immediately where everyone is located," explains Mr. Stiegler. He anticipates this system will find a place in many businesses outside the nuclear industry.

These cards also will be needed to get canisters out of carousel-storage racks which, like old-fashioned, soft-drink bottle dispensers, allow canisters to be removed only with proper authorisation. A computer turns this carousel so that the employee can extract only the container which he is authorised to remove.

The canisters themselves have built-in electronics packages which continually report their positions. To make the expense of such a system more palatable to the industry, the electronics system also reports when gases build up inside the containers, a problem which currently causes considerable difficulty.

Sandia experts also are working on sophisticated perimeter detectors. Most of the money for this development is coming from the Department of Defence to upgrade safeguards around stockpiles of nuclear weapons.

These detectors combine ground-motion sensors, infrared detectors, vibration sensors on the fences, metal detectors, and other types of electronic monitors.

They are linked into a computer programmed to sound an alarm if certain sequences of events should occur. For instance, if footfalls are detected and the fence is rattled, it might just be an animal, so no alarm is sounded. But if a significant amount of metal is also sensed, then it is more likely an attacker with weapons or wire-cutters, so the computer trips off an alarm.

Once an attempted theft is detected there are two basic strategies. One is a built-in or easily activated system which delays the criminals in their attempt to get nuclear material and escape. The other is immediate response by a large guard force.

"The trick is getting the right balance between delay and response," says Mr. Stiegler. The Sandia computer analyses are designed to determine the optimum balance for each facility for a set cost.

Designing safeguards in from the beginning is the most cost-effective approach, say the experts, because a great deal of equipment can serve double duty.

For instance, one security measure now advocated for plants which fabricate reactor fuel from plutonium involves locating cargo doors on the roof of all the trucks which carry plutonium oxide. In this way, a crane would be necessary to remove the material. The crane could be rigged so that it could not run, except when identification and authorisation steps were properly carried out.

In that way, the crane becomes part of the safeguards system," says Mr. Jones. Already, some of these concepts are being incorporated in the design of new plants, say the experts.

Iran pushes for nuclear power through secret channels

President Carter in his inaugural address said: "We pledge perseverance and wisdom in our efforts to limit the world's armaments to those necessary for each nation's own domestic safety. We will move this year a step towards our ultimate goal -- the elimination of all nuclear weapons from this earth. We urge all other people to join us, for success can mean life instead of death." Quickly on the heels of this declaration of U.S. policy comes news that Iran, which last year spent ten times as much on defence and armaments as it did in 1972, has embarked on one of the world's most ambitious nuclear power programmes.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Gemin) — Oil-rich Iran has embarked on "one of the world's most ambitious nuclear power programmes" according to a secret United States State Department document. It presents evidence that the Shah is planning to develop an atomic bomb.

The news raises an early challenge to President Carter who declared in his inaugural address that it would be the aim of his government to work for the elimination of all nuclear weapons from the earth.

The Shah has claimed that his nuclear development programme is to be used only for peaceful purposes.

When former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger visited Iran last August in connection with a 50-billion dollar five-year trade agreement (including the sale of 6-8 nuclear reactors to Iran), the Shah expressed agreement with a U.S.-backed plan for regional multi-national centres to reprocess spent nuclear fuel.

This would safeguard against nuclear proliferation in Third World nations. The reprocess-

ing separates plutonium produced from nuclear fission capable of manufacturing nuclear weapons.

At that time the Shah said: "It would really be silly if masses of countries were to be in possession of two or three silly little bombs".

But the secret State Dept. memorandum reveals that Iran has been working on several secret deals that would give the Indian Ocean power the materials and equipment needed to construct a nuclear weapon.

Despite the Shah's public denials that he would try to obtain his own nuclear reprocessing plant that would supply the required plutonium, the State Dept. document claims that secret negotiations have been conducted between Iran and West Germany.

According to the document, the negotiations conducted have been "to include in the (nuclear sales) agreement a commitment by the Germans to sell a reprocessing plant to Iran should they decide to acquire one in the future."

Iran has also denied reports that it has agreed to purchase 700-million dollars worth of uranium from South Africa, to which Iran is the chief supplier of oil. Uranium is the key raw material needed to fuel most reactors.

The State Dept. document, however, confirms that the deal between Iran and South Africa has been made.

According to U.S. sources, further evidence of the Shah's intentions comes from the massive nuclear training programme he has begun, and his reluctance to purchase major nuclear materials from the U.S.

The U.S. would seem to be a logical nuclear supplier, as it has already supplied Iran with more than 12-billion dollars in sophisticated military hardware since 1972 -- not to mention thousands of U.S. advisers. But the U.S. places tighter restrictions on nuclear sales than most other nations. Thus, Iran has moved towards nations such as West Germany and France for nuclear technology.

The document states: "American industry is participating in various aspects of the Iranian nuclear programme but the major commercial prizes have thus far gone to competitors, owing to a conflict between quite justifiable American concerns about nuclear safeguards on the one hand, and Iranian pride on the other."

The State Dept. also reports that U.S. firms face expensive, and probably illegal obstacles in doing business with Iran.

"Foreign consultants" are obliged, the memo warns, to operate through firms established by "two influential Iranian businessmen." This arrangement is a natural for take-offs and influence peddling," it explained. The phenomena of questionable payments by multinational firms to foreign officials has been a source of growing controversy in Washington.

U.S. sources say that Iran's high-powered nuclear programme has fueled Saudi Arabia's fears of the Shah resurrecting a Persian Empire, and U.S. officials fear that if the Shah's nuclear programme is successful in obtaining a nuclear weapons capability it will be a source of friction and rivalry with other neighbouring countries. Already, according to U.S. sources, the Saudis are rushing to develop some kind of nuclear programme of their own.

U.S. analysts fear a domino effect among "middle powers" in the Third World, a possible proliferation of "nuclear gun-slingers". India's explosion of a nuclear device in 1974 triggered interest amongst developing nations to acquire the reprocessing plants to extract plutonium from spent nuclear fuel.

The Indian event spurred its sub-continental rival, Pakistan, to move towards developing such a capability. Pakistani efforts to acquire a reprocessing facility from France have been hindered by U.S. pressure on Pakistan and France, which has at least temporarily halted the deal.

But many "middle powers" such as Brazil, Argentina, Israel, and South Africa are clamouring to join the "nuclear club" and some analysts feel that many of these nations will acquire nuclear capability by the 1980's or sooner.

The U.S. has played an active role in trying to hold back nuclear proliferation, to which China has responded, accusing the U.S. of seeking to "maintain hegemony".

But the disclosure about Iran's nuclear hopes adds to the foreign policy challenges facing the Carter administration. Carter has opposed the growing U.S. role as arms salesman as well as nuclear proliferation. Moreover, Iran is typical of many right-wing dictatorships such as South Korea, Brazil, Argentina and Zaire, that are close allies of the U.S., and will test Carter's concern for "human rights" as a foreign policy consideration.

According to Amnesty International, Iran has between 25,000-100,000 political prisoners, and the use of torture has been reported.

But these issues will be the litmus test of how thorough an overhaul of U.S. foreign policy Carter envisions.



Nuclear shipment escort complete with armour plate and bullet proof glass.



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BEHIND NEW YORK CITY'S DEBT LOOM TROUBLES IN HOW TO RAISE MONEY



New York City walks financial tightrope.

NEW YORK (CSM) — New York City is once again on the tightrope.

This time it is walking a live wire since it is facing a final legal decision on when it must get its financial house in order.

Adding to the balancing act is the fact this year is an election year, and Mayor Abraham Beame is facing a host of potential Democratic candidates who promise to keep the city's creditors from taking over the day-to-day operations of the city.

However, before election day the city has a legal mine field to tread. Expected very soon is a New York State Court of Appeals decision on how legal the city's moratorium on paying off some 1.8 billion dollars of short-term debts is.

In another week or two, the same Court of Appeals (the highest court in New York State) will decide whether or not the current Municipal Assistance Corporation (MAC) bonds have any constitutional standing. The MAC bonds have specific revenues which back up the payment of the interest and principal. However, current bondholders contend this pre-empt's their own legal rights to the city's revenues.

Settlement of the suits is important because the city and the banks are convinced it must reenter the credit markets this year to meet cash-flow problems.

However, as bank officials are quick to state, the main buyers of any new city or MAC securities must be out-of-town buyers. The New York City banks claim the 1.8 billion dollars they already own precludes any more purchases of city or MAC bonds.

Thus, the bankers and the Emergency Financial Control Board, a state monitor of the city's budget, have tried to gear a plan that would make New York City securities appeal to out-of-town buyers.

The plans include an outside audit of the city's books and an outside trustee who would be responsible for paying out interest and principal from specific revenues. Thus, for example, a permanent emergency financial control board would take all real-estate tax revenues and use the funds solely to meet bond requirements.

This plan has come under fire, some observers suggest, because the controller, Harrison Goldin (running almost unopposed for re-election), would not like to see his control over the city's finances usurped.

At the same time, as the city's unions have found, the Emergency Financial Control Board is a tough bargainer -- the teacher's union negotiated for 17 months to obtain a 4,198 dollar per person raise over a three-year period. Even after the negotiations, it is possible the courts will review the raise.

To complicate matters, the raise is not called a raise, but a "step increment". Thus, it technically bypasses a state-imposed wage freeze.

Beyond the complications of the city's budget looms the question, will out-of-state buyers purchase New York City securities? Are all the laws suits clouding the picture for new bond offerings?

The director of research at a large mutual fund with a new tax-exempt bond fund said he "would feel no need to buy New York securities. There are too many other good things around without the risk." He adds the fund might find itself sued by shareholders and would have a hard time justifying its purchases before a court. Unless the city bonds were guaranteed by the U.S. Government, he wouldn't buy them.

However, John Goldsmith, partner at Prescott Ball & Turben, a Cleveland-based brokerage house, thinks "only the sophisticated outsider will buy New York City securities. Most people are so turned off when you mention New York City you don't need to go any further."

As to the lawsuits, Mr. Goldsmith doesn't believe they really will matter in the long run because only federal intervention will keep the city afloat. If the courts rule against the city, he says, "it only makes a slightly larger problem."

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Handwritten Arabic text: هجره سنة الف و...

THE PAGE FIVE FEATURE PHOTO



Asian and black children at play in Cape Town -- What does the future hold for them?

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES H. GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
© 1977 by Chicago Tribune

both vulnerable. South leads.

NORTH
♠ AK543
♥ J83
♦ 972
♣ 62

EAST
♠ J102
♥ Q105
♦ Q8
♣ Q9843

SOUTH
♠ Q986
♥ A2
♦ A1054
♣ AK5

With West North East Pass 2NT Pass, East South Pass Pass being lead-Six of ♣.

One of the most frustrating aspects of bridge is trying to unseat a blocked suit. On occasion, however, you can enlist the aid of the dummy to resolve that block.

The bidding was slightly target. North should have bid for a major suit game rather than simply raise no trump. The way to do so was employ the Stayman Convention. North was too long to sign off in two trumps, but not good enough to bid game with a jump three spades, so two trumps, followed by a spade bid, would have expressed his values exactly. South dutifully shows a spade suit. North can now invite game by raising three spades, and South would have carried on to club tricks brought declarer's total to nine.

which would not have tested declarer unduly.

Against three no trump, West made his normal lead of the fourth-best of his longest and strongest. Declarer tried dummy's jack, then correctly ducked the first round, and won the continuation. It seems that nine tricks are routine, but declarer realized that the spade suit might block—he might be forced to win the fourth spade in his hand, and then he would have no entry to dummy to enjoy the long spade.

Declarer tested spades by cashing the queen and ace. Had the suit divided evenly, he would have been able to win the third spade in hand, then cross to dummy with a spade to the king to cash the fifth spade. When West showed out on the second spade, declarer realized that if he used the king of spades to draw East's jack, the suit would block.

The solution was neat and simple. Declarer abandoned spades and led the jack of hearts! A spade was discarded from his hand, thereby getting rid of the blocking card. The defenders could cash two more heart tricks to complete the book, but that was all they could get. Declarer would win any continuation and lead a spade to dummy's king. The table's two long spades could now be cashed. Five spades, one heart, one diamond and two club tricks brought declarer's total to nine.

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, MAR. 1, 1977

Your Daily HOROSCOPE

from the CARROLL RICHTER INSTITUTE

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The early part of the day is not good for any confrontations. Later you can make progress in finding the right thoughts under which you can best operate and gain the answers you need.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) A new project needs more study to be successful. Do some entertaining at home tonight and discuss future with congenials.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Try to be more helpful toward others at this time. You have to exercise much care in motion today if you are to avoid trouble.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Study your financial position and find a practical way to have more abundance. Strive for increased happiness.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Your personal aims may seem difficult to attain during the day but all works out fine by evening. Be logical.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Find the right way to remove obstacles in the path of your progress. Take proper health treatments and improve your appearance.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) The daytime is not good to pursue a new friendship. Try not to argue with anyone and try to be harmonious with others.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Obtain the support you need from a higher-up and advance in your line of endeavor. Relax at home tonight.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Study the ideas you want to put in operation but don't make any definite decisions until later in the day. Be wise.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Your hunches are not as accurate as usual, so trust only your good judgment. Take no chances with your reputation.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Conduct your work in a most efficient way and gain excellent results. Do nothing that will cause tension with co-workers.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Engage in creative work early and then you have time left over for recreation you desire. Show others you have wisdom.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Try to understand ideas of kin better and support them where feasible. Use common sense and you add to present security.

GRAFFITI

...HALLO!
IS THIS 67171-2-3-4?
I'D LIKE TO RESERVE
A SPACE FOR AN AD IN
THE JORDAN TIMES...

WILD HORSES
CAN'T DRAG
SECRETS OUT OF
WOMEN BUT
THEY DON'T
LUNCH WITH
WILD HORSES

LAUGHS FROM EUROPE

DENMARK
Bjerggaard

THE BETTER HALF. By Barnes

TONIGHT'S T.V. FEATURES

APPLE'S WAY:
PEN PAL
On Patricia's insistence, her parents collect the necessary money to bring her Greek pen pal friend to the U.S. for an operation on her foot.

RICH MAN, POOR MAN:
CHAPTER 9
Rudy gets married to Julia and starts his campaign for the position of U.S. senator. Tom tries his hand at becoming a fisherman while abroad.

HAWAII 5-0:
LET DEATH DO US PART
McGarrett searches for escaped prisoner who is accused of having murdered his wife.

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Hotel Jordan Intercontinental. Open daily for Executive Luncheon 1-3 p.m. Special International Buffet on Sundays. Dinner with live music from 7 p.m. to midnight. For reservation please call 41361 ext. 5.

THE DIPLOMAT
First Circle, Jabal Amman. Tel. 25592. Open from 7 a.m. to 1 a.m. Restaurant, coffee-shop, snack bar and patisserie. Oriental and European specialties.

QUICK MEAL
Restaurants for broasted chicken and light snacks. Take home, lunch or dinner. Jabal Amman, First Circle, Tel. 21083. Jabal Al Luweibdeh, Hawuz Circle, Tel. 30648. Jabal Al Hussein, near Jerusalem Cinema, Tel. 21781. Also in Zarka and Irbed.

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First Chinese restaurant in Jordan. First Circle, Jabal Amman, near the Ahlyyah School or CMS. Tel. 38962. Open daily from noon to 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to midnight. Also take home service-order by phone.

WINGS
Firas Wings Hotel, Jabal Al Luweibdeh. Tel. 22103/4. Choices of THREE set menus daily for lunch, and a la carte. Open 12-3 p.m. and 7-12 p.m. Specialty: steaks.

PEANUTS

THE FLINTSTONES

MUTT AND JEFF

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Scramble these four Jumbles. Letter to each square, to form ordinary words.

ROLED
[Grid]

LOVEH
[Grid]

ARFAY
[Grid]

VEGNIT
[Grid]

HER BOYFRIEND WENT DOWN WITH A CRY OF PAIN.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: [Grid]

Jumbles: USURY ROBOT BELONG GAINED
Answer: A sign that some of us might be mending our ways—'DETOUR'

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1. Indulgent
2. Mild oath
3. For
4. Be indebted
5. Backward
6. Japanese giraffe
7. Arabic
8. Swift
9. Ethical
10. Turkish decree
11. Indicate
12. Accounts
13. Quibbles

DOWN

1. Saratoga, for one
2. Mine excavation
3. Oxford graduate
4. Boy in Spain
5. Used to express surprise
6. Actual being
7. Vernon and Irene
8. Quota
9. Open court
10. Preeminent
11. Niqa
12. Reality
13. Fencing dummy
14. Bravo
15. Added to
16. Small draught
17. Bluenose
18. Pressing
19. Shooting marble
20. Summer in Paris
21. Wears away
22. Fuse partly
23. Plant cutter bird
24. Girasol
25. Angered
26. Tart
27. Fish
28. Coin of Macao
29. Tennis point
30. French article

For advertising in above columns contact "Sout Wa Soura" Tel. 38869. Open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4-6 p.m.

OAU's allegations against Morocco were "premature"

ROME, Feb. 28 (AFP). — An Organisation of African Unity (OAU) report, allegedly implicating Morocco and Gabon in last month's abortive mercenary-led coup in Benin, was distributed here "prematurely", it was stated today.

The report, circulated to the OAU's Ministerial Council meeting here, led to a Moroccan walkout on Saturday. Morocco said it would no longer take part in any OAU activities while the organisation failed to respect its charter principles concerning the sovereignty of member states.

Togolese Foreign Minister Edem Kodjo, host chairman of the ministerial session, said today it was an OAU administrative mistake to circulate the report before an OAU delegation had returned from a fact-finding mission in Benin.

But he maintained that the report -- distributed by OAU Deputy Secretary General Peter Onu -- would not differ essentially from that of the OAU's delegation.

He expressed surprise over Morocco's decision to walkout, particularly as the debate on the reported Benin raid had gone ahead "admittedly in a somewhat tense atmosphere" and a satisfactory decision had been reached. He did not say, however, what this decision was.

Another factor influencing Morocco's decision to withdraw was the presence here of a delegation from the Saharan liberation movement Polisario.

Mr. Smith said in an interview published here today that whites still had a place in Southern Africa provided they accepted that "there will have to be big changes in this part of the world."

Mr. Smith told the Citizen newspaper that whites should realise that "racial discrimination is unacceptable" and that it is regarded as one of the "greatest crimes in this world today."

Mr. Smith was being strongly criticised by Rhodesian right-wingers for taking steps to abolish some of the country's race laws, in particular the Land Tenure Act which divides land

Ian Smith interviewed: If whites accept changes, they still have role to play in Southern Africa

JOHANNESBURG, Feb. 28 (AFP). — Rhodesian Premier Ian Smith said in an interview published here today that whites still had a place in Southern Africa provided they accepted that "there will have to be big changes in this part of the world."

Mr. Smith told the Citizen newspaper that whites should realise that "racial discrimination is unacceptable" and that it is regarded as one of the "greatest crimes in this world today."

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Non-aligned news pool opens ministerial meeting in Tunis

TUNIS, Feb. 28 (AFP). — The first government ministerial meeting to programme the creation of a non-aligned news agency pool opened here today.

The Chairman, Premier Hedi Nouria of Tunisia, told delegates from 15 countries that their task was "the extension and essential corollary" of the search for a new world economic order.

The decision of last August's non-aligned nations' summit in Colombo to set up a news agencies pool had, he said, run into "the suspicion, the manifest hostility even, of the great Western news organs."

Stressing that "we believe in dialogue and reject isolation," he said "we are fighting the monopoly in the field of news only because we hope for fruitful cooperation based on equality and justice."

The two-day meeting was scheduled to study the ways in which the news agencies pool could cooperate with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), a body which won special thanks from Mr. Nouria for its "decisive contribution" to the cause.

Norway refuses residence permit to female Israeli secret agent

OSLO, Feb. 28 (AFP). — Norway today confirmed a police court decision to expel a former Israeli secret service agent from the country.

The state Aliens Board -- a government body responsible for foreign residents -- ruled that South African-born Mrs. Sylvia Rafael Schoedt, 39, would not be permitted to settle here, although she is married to a leading Norwegian lawyer.

In 1973, Mrs. Schoedt, then Miss Sylvia Rafael, was sentenced to six-years-and-six-months imprisonment for her role in the slaying of Mr. Ahmad Bouchiki, an alleged member of a Palestinian commando group.

Mr. Bouchiki was killed at the winter resort of Lillehammer, 180 kms north of here. A court heard testimony that the murder was carried out by a 15-member Israeli "counter-terrorist" squad organised by Israel's secret Mossad service.

Similar murders were reportedly carried out by members of the same group in Rome, Madrid and Paris.

Five persons were caught and convicted of the murder at Lillehammer, drawing sentences from one year in prison to six years and six months.

All were pardoned before serving out their terms. Miss Rafael left prison to return to South Africa, but came back here in December after having wedded the lawyer who defended her at the trial -- Mr. Annaeus

Schoedt -- one of Norway's best known attorneys.

In its statement today, the Aliens Board acknowledged what it termed the humanitarian aspects of the case, but said it could not authorise a residence permit.

The Schoedts were not available for comment.

LIBYA ACCUSED OF ALEXANDRIA HOTEL BLAST

CAIRO, Feb. 28 (AFP). — No persons were injured Saturday when a bomb exploded in Alexandria hotel, it was officially announced here today.

The Public Prosecutor's Office said the man responsible for the bombing, an Egyptian, was arrested yesterday morning and has confessed to having been recruited by Libya to carry out sabotage activities in Egypt.

Sino-Soviet border parley shows signs of new difficulties

PEKING, Feb. 28 (R). — Russia's chief negotiator at the stalled Sino-Soviet border talks left Peking today and informed sources said Moscow has given up hope of an early breakthrough.

The envoy, Deputy Foreign Minister Leonid Ilyichev, said, however, that although his tour was over the talks would continue.

Questioned at Peking Airport on the progress of the negotiations, he replied: "All negotiations achieve something."

Mr. Ilyichev was in an apparently jovial mood, shaking hands with his Chinese counterpart, Mr. Yu Chuan, wishing him good luck and good health.

His arrival here, last November, was seen as part of wider Soviet schemes to start fresh dialogue with the Chinese administration of Chairman Hua Kuo-fang.

News of Mr. Ilyichev's call came as no surprise to analysts here. Since Chairman Mao Tse-tung's death last September, Peking has shown apparent interest in a rapprochement with Moscow and has continued its anti-Soviet propaganda.

Neither side released details of the talks, which have dragged on since the 1969 clashes on the Ussuri River frontier. The Chinese maintain Mr. Ilyichev did not make fresh proposals.

There was no indication when the envoy would return to open substantive negotiations. Periodic lower-level meetings are expected to continue between Chinese officials and Moscow's resident negotiator team headed by Mr. Vyacheslav Novikov.

"Official business" is cited as the reason for Mr. Ilyichev's recall. Moscow's ambassador here, Mr. Vadim Stikov, said the envoy plan to accompany Soviet President Nikolai Podgorny on a tour of Africa next month.

ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS NEWS

Iran's economy settles down to slower pace

TEHRAN, Feb. 28 (AFP). — The Iranian economy seems to be settling down to a less hectic pace that is more in keeping with its capacity and the new oil revenue.

Budget proposals allow for a gross national product (GNP) increase of 13 per cent in volume for the next 12 months, which is about the same as for last year.

This rate is well below the 42 per cent record growth of 1974 and 1975 subsequent to the big oil price rise. But even the new rate is still one of the highest for nations run on the free market principle. Iranian officials say.

Iran has a number of handicaps including weak infrastructures, insufficient electricity, and a lack of skilled personnel estimated at 400,000.

There is uncertainty, meanwhile, about future oil revenue. The figure suggested for the coming 12 months is \$19,500 million, which would be around 10 per cent below the figure of two years ago, in spite of oil price rises since then.

If the higher prices for imported products are also taken into account, Iran's purchasing power has slumped by nearly half since early 1974.

This restricts Iran's ability to invest in development.

It explains why Iran is increasingly attempting to conclude equipment-for-oil barter deals with Western countries on the lines of those with East Europe in recent years.

For the year starting next month, the total budget is about \$50,000 million. Emphasis will be laid on electricity generation and transportation, especially on the completion of projects already in hand. Another big effort will go into professional training for 300,000 persons.

In about eight years' time, Iran expects oil exports to start declining. So it is trying to improve tax revenue and boost non-oil sales abroad.

Already oil exports provide only 70 per cent of the budget revenue against 80 per cent two years ago. The rest comes from taxes, even though many firms do not pay any, as well as from customs (\$6,000 million) and both internal and international loans (\$3,500 million), not forgetting the income of state concerns (\$18,000 million).

Non-oil exports are at present no greater than \$700 million, because Iran has little to offer except raw materials. In any case, Iran itself absorbs most of this non-oil production.

In some sectors like agriculture, demand exceeds output, a phenomenon that pushes prices up. The current price rise is more than 20 per cent per annum.

Hitherto the increase in wage rates, average 25 per cent a year for the past three years, has been greater than the cost-of-living rise of 15 per cent average.

In future the government will endeavour to link pay rises with productivity, the underlying purpose being to improve the competitiveness of Iran's industry.

Additionally, a hand-up will be provided for people who have so far lost out on the boom.

\$422 million allocated for Sudan's agriculture

KHARTOUM, Feb. 28 (R). — Allocations for Sudan's agricultural sector under the six-year development plan totalled 715 million Sudanese pounds (\$422 million) the Sudanese news agency SUNA said Saturday.

It said the private sector's share of these allocations was estimated at 290 million Sudanese pounds (\$171 million).

The agency reported that under the same plan, the volume of investments would be increased from 315 million Sudanese pounds (\$180 million) in 1976/77 to 633 million Sudanese pounds (\$374 million) in 1982/83.

Exported goods and services are expected to increase 11 per cent under the plan from 214 million Sudanese pounds (\$126 million) to about 400 million Sudanese pounds (\$236 million) by 1982/83 based on the prices of 1976/77.

U.S. federal loans to New York depend on guaranteed repayment

NEW YORK, Feb. 28 (R). — The U.S. Treasury has warned New York City that it must reach agreement on a plan to repay \$1 billion in short-term loans before it can have a federal emergency loan.

City officials say that without the loan the city would be forced into bankruptcy early next month.

Treasury Secretary Michael Blumenthal told Mayor Abraham Beame yesterday that the city's request for a \$255 million loan could not be approved until the city and its major creditors -- the major New York banks and municipal unions -- had agreed on a repayment package.

The city, banks and unions have been meeting since last November when the state's highest court ruled unconstitutional a plan for short-term loans as part of the city's broad scheme for remaining solvent.

The banks have insisted, the city raise a portion of the money by issuing a new municipal bond accompanied by long-term outside review of future city budgets. The unions have opposed the review proposal on grounds that it would interfere with collective bargaining.

An aide to Mr. Blumenthal said the treasury secretary was insisting "he would have to have an agreement in principle (on the repayment package) in order to make a finding that there was a reasonable prospect for repayment."

Israeli government, trade unions agree on pay rise

TEL AVIV, Feb. 28 (R). — Israeli government and trade union representatives today agreed on a pay rise for 40,000 civil servants to solve a dispute which had threatened to close all government services.

Similar wage agreements were signed last week by engineers and academics in government service. Teachers were expected to sign one today also.

The unions said wage increases and cost-of-living allowances granted last year had been eroded by spiralling inflation which topped 38 per cent in 1976 and could reach 50 per cent this year.

Meanwhile, hospital doctors called off a threatened strike early today after the government agreed to grant them the advance payment on promised salary increases.

The doctors were promised pay increases three months ago.

WALL STREET REPORT

Prices eked out a slight gain Monday on the New York stock exchange where the industrial average rose about three points in quiet trading. The market saw-sawed in a narrow range throughout most of the day and investors paid little attention to announcements from the Commerce Department that the U.S. trade balance had a record deficit in January and that the government's index of economic indicators declined 1.2 per cent in January, its biggest monthly drop in two years.

Gainers led losers at the bell by a small 702 to 687 margin.

Oil, steel, paper, aircraft, computer and utility issues showed some strength, along with car manufacturer shares, where Ford Motor gained 7/8 to 57-7/8. Sony rose 1/8 to 9-3/4 in active trading, while British Petroleum fell 1/8 to 15-1/4.

At the close, the industrial average shows at 936.42, a gain of 2.99 points; Transp at 221.90, a gain of 0.09; utilities at 105.28, a gain of 0.31. 16,220,000 shares changed hands, of which 3,070,000 during the last hour.

LONDON MARKET REPORT

The market moved higher Monday in light to moderate trading and at 15:00 the F.T. index was up 9.4 at 411.1.

Buying interest was prompted by hopes of tax concessions in next month's budget proposals which in turn may help extend government's pay restraint. The strength of sterling and prospects of a fall in interest rates also helped sentiment, dealers said.

Government bonds led the advance, gaining over a point among longer maturities while shorts firmed up to 5/8. Thin conditions accentuated gains, dealers added.

B.P. was prominent among equities by adding 20p. Gold shares moved higher with the bullion price.

Shell finished 10p up, while gains of 6p to 9p were scored by Rank, ICI, Courtauld, Glaxo, EMI, Guest Keen, Hawker, Tube Investments, Beecham, Metal Box and Unilever -- which reports Tuesday.

Second line issues scored a broad advance led by insurances where Commercial Union ended 6p up after a return to full par profitability. Royal added 10p.

Price of gold closed in London Monday at \$142.75/oz.

Thai troops attack Communist rebels south of Bangkok

BANGKOK, Feb. 28 (AFP). — Government forces launched an all-round offensive against Communist insurgents in Surat Thani Province, 680 kms. south of here during the weekend, it was announced today.

Fourth Military Region Commander, Gen. Phin Thammasri, said the offensive included a curfew, an economic blockade of "red" districts and confiscation of all personal firearms and the stationing of army units in villages.

The province's Communist guerrillas have about 1,000 armed men supported, either voluntarily or under duress, by several thousand villagers of eight districts.

They are operating from seven or eight fortified camps set up on the jungle-covered slopes of the Banthad mountain range, which stretches several hundred kilometres from south of Bangkok to near Kuala Lumpur.

According to intelligence reports, many Communist cadres trained in China and northern Vietnam have been sent back to plantations and factories in southern Thailand in order to organise the local inhabitants into Communist cells.

Meanwhile, four soldiers, including a lieutenant, were wounded yesterday in a mine explosion in the Viengsa district, one

Ben Gurion's love affair made public for 1st time

TEL AVIV, Feb. 28 (AFP). — Former Israeli Premier David Ben Gurion carried on a secret love affair for 15 years with an English Catholic woman he met in London during World War II, it was revealed in a newly published book here today.

In the second part of his biography of the Zionist leader, Israeli historian Michael Bar-Zohar says that Mr. Ben Gurion was already 53 when he met in 1940 Miss Doris May, 41, who was then private secretary to Dr. Haim Weizmann, later to become the first president of Israel.

An Oxford graduate, Miss May, says Mr. Bar-Zohar, was pretty, intelligent, elegant, cultured, fond of poetry and well-read in history.

The two met and corresponded for more than 15 years. No one, except for a few close friends of Mr. Ben Gurion, ever suspected the relationship.

Many separations marked the couple's idyll.

It was "tragic" that only the channel separated them "and yet we are as far apart as if we lived at the North and South Poles," Miss May wrote Mr. Ben Gurion when he was in exile in Paris in 1945.

She later worked at the Israeli Embassy in London and visited Israel several times. They met for the last time in 1966. She died two years later.

Question of Djibouti's independence is not only of local interest

By Marie Joannides

PARIS, Feb. 28 (AFP). — The upcoming independence of the French territory of Afars and Issas (Djibouti), likely to be proclaimed next summer, is sparking even further interest among its immediate neighbours. Arab countries, especially those bordering the Red Sea, and by the big powers.

This small, arid territory with an area of 23,000 square kms. is strategically located at the entrance of the Red Sea and opposite the Aden Gulf.

Djibouti is both Ethiopia's life-blood to the sea and a natural "historic" part of the "Great Somali Nation".

The Arabs see it as a factor of stability in this troubled region at the Horn of Africa, and the most moderate among them, such as Saudi Arabia, regard it as an essential counter-weight to Soviet penetration, already evident in Somalia and South Yemen, and now spreading to Ethiopia.

The Soviet Union is trying to strengthen its position in the Indian Ocean to counter the U.S. presence. The U.S. navy's Indian Ocean fleet has a major base at the Diego Garcia Island and many port facilities in "friendly countries" of the area.

But for the time being, the two superpowers seem to exert a moderating influence to avert conflicts between countries of the region.

In addition, the French presence in Djibouti has done much to preserve some sort of balance of power. In this perspective, the conference, which opens today here between the French government and Djibouti's various political factions, will be followed with a great deal of attention.

ADVERTISEMENT

AUB Entrance Examinations are scheduled in Amman for Friday, April 15, and Saturday, April 16. Interested students may register at the AFME Centre, Jabal Luweibdeh, Saturdays to Wednesdays inclusive, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Telephone 24495. The examination fee is JD 5.000 for each test taken.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

TEHRAN, Feb. 28 (AFP). — Saudi Arabian oil is being sold on Western markets at 9 per cent more than last year's price, although Saudi Arabia raised its rate by only five per cent on Jan. 1, Iranian Minister of State Jamsid Amuzegar said here. He said on television that, subsequent to the 5 per cent increase, Saudi Arabia was selling its oil at \$12.06 a barrel but the same oil was being marketed at \$12.8.

TOKYO, Feb. 28 (AFP). — Japan will urge Western nations to refrain from protectionist policies, at a preparatory meeting for the third economic summit meeting of industrialized nations, Premier Takeo Fukuda said today. He gave instructions to this effect to Deputy Foreign Minister Sumitomo Yoshino who will attend the preparatory meeting in Washington on March 12 and 13. Noting that the issue of global trade was a main topic for the summit, Mr. Fukuda said it was vital to avoid protectionism, even though some Western countries had serious trade gap problems.

NEW YORK, Feb. 28 (AFP). — China appears to be in the market for Western military hardware, the New York Times said today. The New York daily noted that Peking seemed to be looking particularly in the direction of the British vertical take-off Harrier fighter and reconnaissance jet. The Chinese government had not yet made an approach to the United States over the purchase of military equipment but the subject was already causing some heart-searching among Defence and State Department officials, the newspaper said.

MADRID, Feb. 28 (AFP). — Nearly 14,000 farmers blocked roads in northern Spain with tractors yesterday, in a growing movement claiming a price policy, social security and the setting up of a traders' union. About 2,000 in the Basque Province of Alava were making their first appearance in the movement, which began in Galicia on Jan. 19 and later spread to the Provinces of Alava, Leon, Logrono, Navarra and Burgos. No incidents were reported, but the situation remained tense.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

TRIPOLI, Feb. 28 (AFP). — Cuban leader Fidel Castro will begin an official visit to Libya tomorrow, Libyan Radio announced today. It did not indicate the length of the visit, which will coincide with a general peoples' congress at Sabha.

BRUSSELS, Feb. 28 (AFP). — Belgium's French-speaking Rassemblement Wallon Party has threatened to quit the coalition headed by Mr. Leo Tindemans unless solutions are proposed by next Friday to the seemingly insoluble problems caused by the country's linguistic division. The ultimatum, delivered last night by Rassemblement chief Paul-Henry Gendebien, is not the first and Mr. Tindemans a Christian Socialist has survived since May 1974, which is a long time by Belgian standards.

ADEN, Feb. 28 (AFP). — An Omani military commander was killed and three other men seriously injured in a battle last month with guerrillas from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman, the front announced in the South Yemeni capital yesterday. The commander, a Baluchi had been hired by Omani forces, the announcement added. The battle took place on Jan. 27 in the Janin Valley near the eastern district of the Omani Province of Dhofar, it said.

TIVAT, Yugoslavia, Feb. 28 (R). — Lieut. Col. Atsufu Abate, Vice Chairman of Ethiopia's ruling Military Council, left Yugoslavia today after a four-day visit during which he had talks with President Tito. The visit is believed to have been part of efforts by Ethiopia to establish closer ties with Communist countries.

LONDON, Feb. 28 (AFP). — King Khaled of Saudi Arabia, who underwent hip surgery here on Feb. 15, was making "very good progress" informed sources said here today. King Khaled will remain for a few more days in the Wellington Hospital where he is under treatment. Sources close to the king refused to comment on recent press reports that he was to undergo a new operation in a few days.

Handwritten signature or stamp at the bottom of the page.